

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 02519 01 OF 02 281316Z
ACTION A-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 MMO-01 /013 W
-----114245 281411Z /53
R 281127Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4970

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 KHARTOUM 2519

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY THOMAS

FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KRYZA (AF/EX)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AMGT, SU
SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATION EMBASSY KHARTOUM

1. SINCE MY ARRIVAL IN KHARTOUM, I HAVE GIVEN A LOT OF THOUGHT TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS WE WILL FACE GIVEN WHAT NOW APPEARS TO BE AN INEVITABLE EXPANSION OF OUR ACTIVITIES AND PRESENCE IN THIS COUNTRY. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF FACTORS IN THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT WHICH, WHILE CERTAINLY NOT UNIQUE TO THIS POST, PRESENT SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS AND INEVITABLY HAVE THE EFFECT OF MAKING THIS EMBASSY A HIGH-COST OPERATION.

2. AMONG THESE FACTORS ARE:

A) HOUSING: POST POLICY IS AND SHOULD REMAIN TO PLACE ALL ASSIGNED USG PERSONNEL IN GOVERNMENT-LEASED AND FURNISHED HOUSING. THIS ENTAILS AN ENORMOUS BURDEN IN LOCATING AND LEASING SUCH PROPERTY AND AN EVEN GREATER BURDEN IN MAINTAINING IT. KHARTOUM IS RAPIDLY EXPANDING AND THIS GROWTH IS OUTSTRIPPING THE CAPACITY OF THE MUNICIPALITY TO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND UTILITIES. POWER OUTAGES AND INTERRUPTIONS OF WATER SUPPLY ARE FREQUENT.

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MACHINES, SUCH AS AIR-CONDITIONERS, ETC., SUFFER IN THIS HARSH CLIMATE AND ADEQUATE MAINTENANCE IS NOT AVAILABLE. AS USG POPULATION IN KHARTOUM INCREASES, HOUSING WILL BECOME AN INCREASINGLY TIME-CONSUMING PROBLEM TO BE FACED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THIS EMBASSY.

B) CALIBER OF LOCAL STAFF: LOCAL EMPLOYEES FOR THE MOST PART ARE WILLING AND FRIENDLY. THEY HAVE NEITHER THE TRAINING

NOR THE APTITUDE TO PERFORM A GOOD MANY ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS. MOREOVER, THEY HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT TRAUMATIZED BY TWO SHARP INTERRUPTIONS IN U.S.- SUDANESE RELATIONS, I.E., 1967 AND 1974. IN CERTAIN AREAS, PARTICULARLY GSO, WE ARE FORCED TO USE AMERICANS IN JOBS WHICH AT OTHER POSTS COULD BE WELL HANDLED BY LOCALS. I DO NOT LOOK FOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE AVAILABILITY OF MORE QUALIFIED LOCALS BECAUSE SUDAN IS SUFFERING FROM A SERIOUS BRAIN-DRAIN. ITS BRIGHT, YOUNG PEOPLE CAN DO MUCH BETTER FOR THEMSELVES BY EMIGRATING TO THE OIL-RICH COUNTRIES OF THE PERSIAN GULF AND FINDING EMPLOYMENT THERE.

C) LOCAL ENVIRONMENT: SUDAN HAS A BRIGHT FUTURE AS ITS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS MOVE FORWARD. FOR A VERY LONG TIME AHEAD, HOWEVER, THIS COUNTRY WILL BE SUFFERING ALL THE BIRTH PANGS ASSOCIATED WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, NAMELY SHORTAGES OF HOUSING, CONSUMER GOODS AND OTHER MATERIALS, AND INADEQUATE TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES. THIS, PLUS LOCAL WORK HABITS ENGENDERED BY THE SEVERE CLIMATE, WILL PROBABLY MEAN THAT THIS EMBASSY'S ADMINISTRATION WILL BE LESS COST-EFFECTIVE THAN MOST.

3. DURING THE SECOND AMBASSADORIAL SEMINAR, I WAS MOST IMPRESSED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY THOMAS' PRESENTATION. WHAT STRUCK ME WAS HIS MENTION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT ACTION TEAMS (AMATS). MR. THOMAS NOTED THAT A VISIT BY AN AMAT WOULD BE THE BEST MEANS OF ESTABLISHING A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BASE-LINE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS, RATHER THAN AN INSPECTION OR AN AUDIT. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT OUR SITUATION HERE IS A TEXTBOOK EXAMPLE OF WHAT AN AMAT CAN DO TO MAKE SURE THAT IN OUR EXPANSION WE GET OFF TO THE BEST START POSSIBLE. I WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE IT IF CONSIDERATION COULD BE GIVEN TO SENDING A TEAM HERE IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.

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ACTION A-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 MMO-01 /013 W
-----114110 281410Z /53

R 281127Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4972

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 KHARTOUM 2519

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY THOMAS

FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KRYZA (AF/EX)

4. ONE OF THE QUESTIONS WHICH WE HAVE TO FACE NOW IS WHETHER WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A CONSOLIDATED ADMINISTRATION AT THIS POST OR WHETHER ITS VARIOUS COMPONENTS, PARTICULARLY AID, WHICH PROMISES TO BE FAIRLY LARGE, WILL GO THEIR SEPARATE ADMINISTRATIVE WAYS. I NOTE FROM EARLIER COMMUNICATIONS THAT AID IS TENTATIVELY PLANNING ADMINISTRATIVE AUTONOMY IN KHARTOUM TWO FISCAL YEARS HENCE. BY INSTINCT AND BY EXPERIENCE, MY OWN STRONG INCLINATION IS TO FAVOR A SHARED ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE FOR KHARTOUM. IF MY RECOLLECTION IS CORRECT, KHARTOUM WAS ONE OF THE FIRST POSTS WHERE SAS WAS INSTALLED IN THE EARLY SIXTIES AND THE RESULTS WERE HIGHLY SATISFACTORY. I RECOGNIZE, HOWEVER, THAT THERE ARE ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF AID, WHICH WILL HAVE A COUNTRY-WIDE PROGRAM, LOOKING AFTER ITS OWN ADMINISTRATION. FOR THIS REASON, I FEEL AN EXAMINATION ON THE SPOT BY AN AMAT AND THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE ESSENTIAL IN RESOLVING THIS QUESTION.

5. A SPECIFIC PROBLEM WHICH MUST BE ADDRESSED IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE IS RAISED BY AID'S DESIRE TO SEND AN FSR-3 HERE AS ITS MANAGEMENT OFFICER. I HESITATE TO ACCEPT THIS BECAUSE, FOR THE TIME BEING, I WANT HANK YOUNG TO BE IN CHARGE OF ALL ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS IN THIS COUNTRY. I HAVE BEEN MOST IMPRESSED BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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YOUNG AND THINK HE HAS THE STUFF IN HIM WHICH WILL RESULT IN HIS FAIRLY RAPID ADVANCEMENT TO A SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE POSITION.

MOREOVER, IF WE BRING IN AN AID MANAGEMENT OFFICER SENIOR TO YOUNG AT THIS POINT, IT WOULD SEEM THAT WE WOULD BE PREJUDGING THE BASIC QUESTION OF THE FUTURE BASIS OF OVERALL USG ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS IN THIS COUNTRY.

6. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR REACTION TO THIS PROPOSAL AT YOUR EARLY CONVENIENCE.
BERGUS

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